

MARVEL
ANNUAL

CONTEST OF CHAOS

1 SUMMER
2023



LOO
CUTLER
VALENZA

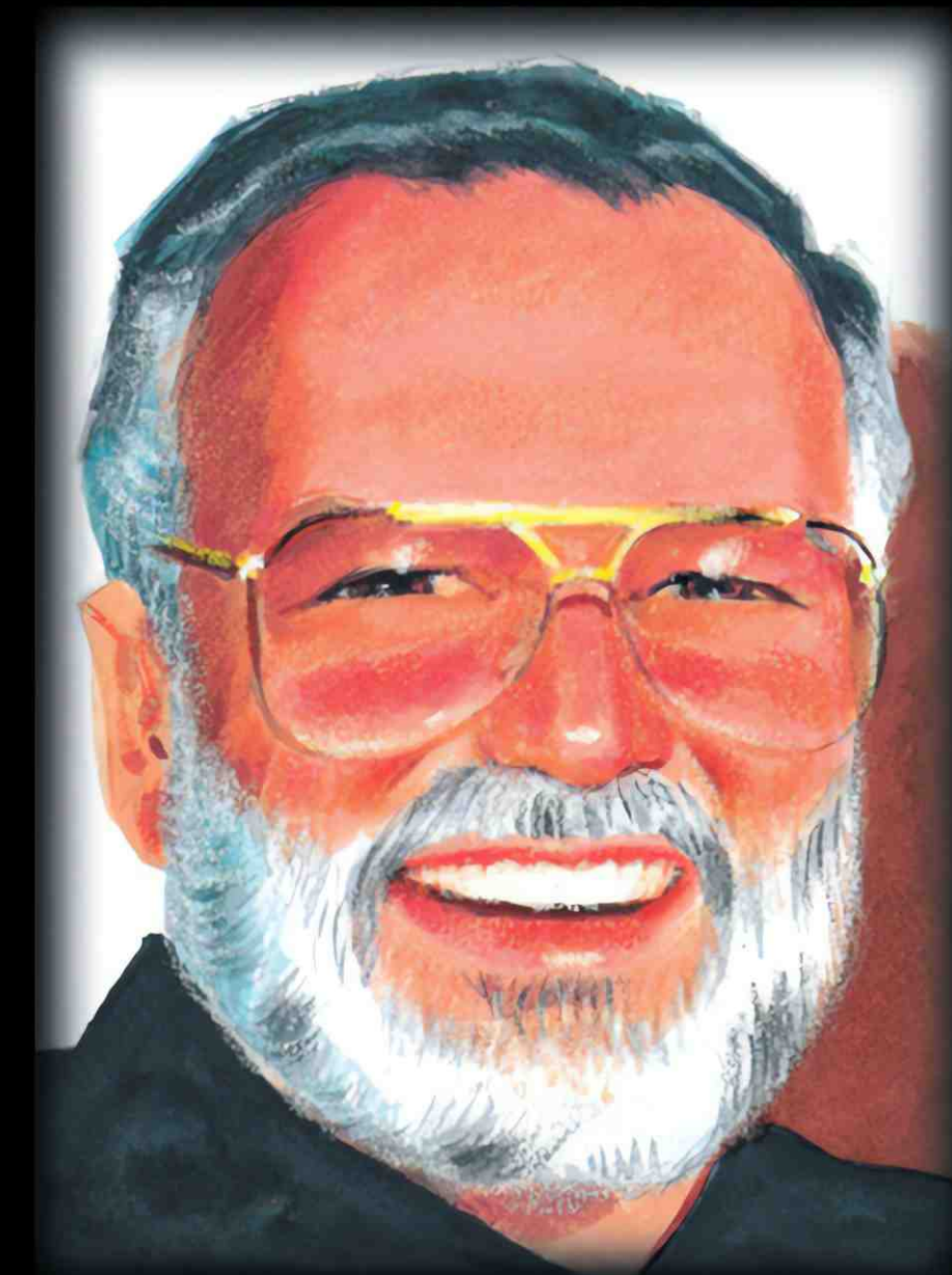
PHILLIPS
FOCHE
ANGULO

Tra



John Romita

1930 – 2023



Marvel mourns the passing of comic-book artist John Romita Sr., whose work on *Amazing Spider-Man* helped make the character a worldwide sensation. In his work as Marvel's art director, he designed the Punisher and Wolverine and served as mentor for countless artists during his decades-long tenure with the company.

Romita had a profound effect on everyone he met at Marvel. He was always kind and warm and served as an inspiration to all who knew him or followed his work. Romita helped build the Marvel Universe as we know it, and he will be greatly missed.



DECADES OF AMAZING WORK

John Romita wore many hats at Marvel. His most famous contribution was his run on *Amazing Spider-Man*, including the above cover to the series' landmark fiftieth issue. His association with the character would include drawing the cover of the famed wedding of Peter Parker and Mary Jane Watson, *Amazing Spider-Man Annual* #21, seen opposite top right. With Stan Lee, he started the Spider-Man newspaper strip, including the sequence with Kingpin from Sept. 25, 1977, seen opposite center. Behind the scenes, Romita was responsible for designing many of Marvel's most famous characters. At bottom opposite are Romita's costume designs for Black Widow and Wolverine.

"John Romita Sr. was an incomparable artist who brought so many iconic Marvel characters to life on the page and set the tone and look of Marvel's comics for decades. His version of Spider-Man has inspired so many of us at Marvel Studios. Our thoughts are with his family and the generations of artists and fans who fell in love with the characters he drew."

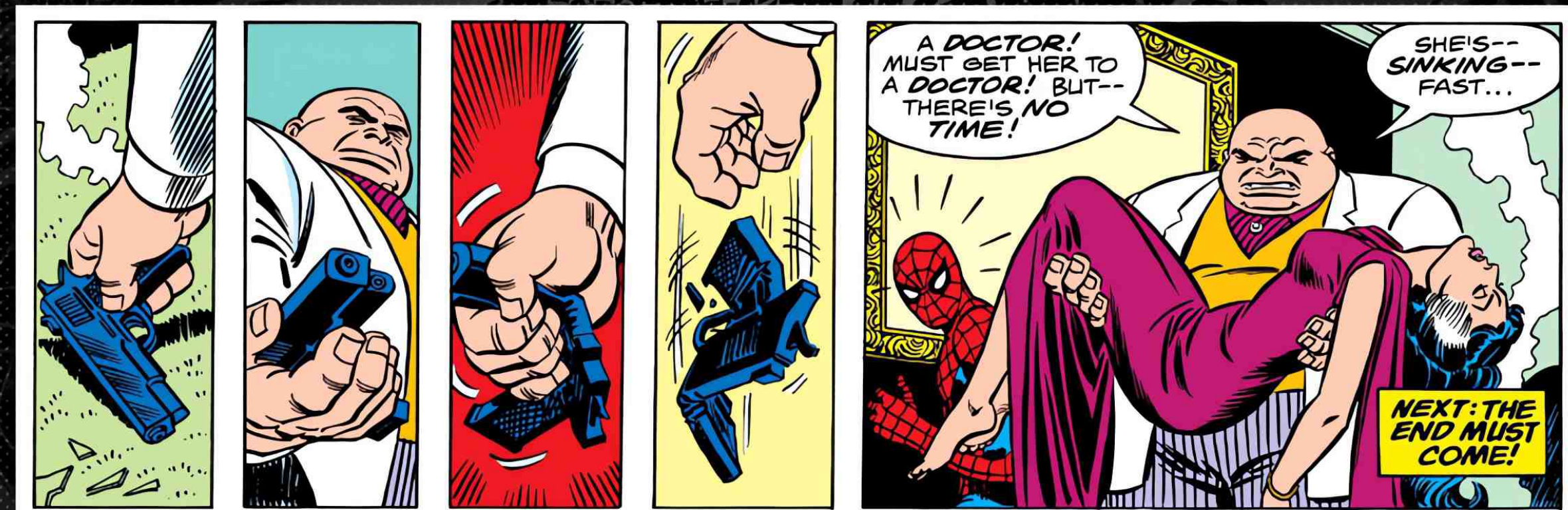
— KEVIN FEIGE

"I was recently able to fawn over some of John Romita Sr.'s original Spider-Man pages, and the word that kept popping into my mind as I marveled over his linework was 'timeless.' His style was such a departure from what had come before, which John did say made him nervous, but one that came to define the look of Peter, Spider-Man, MJ, Gwen and everyone else in their orbit. And the same was true for every Marvel character. John designed, penciled and inked. Whether as an artist or art director, John's work influenced generations of comic book artists. With his passing, the comic industry loses a true legend, but just like his artwork, his legacy will remain timeless."

— C.B. CEBULSKI

"When you close your eyes and picture Spider-Man, you're probably picturing a John Romita Sr. Spider-Man. From his debut of the character in *Amazing Spider-Man* #39, the subsequent fifty issues of art, more than a hundred covers and the work he did on the newspaper strip, John defined Spidey for generations of people around the world. That would be enough for anyone else, but John was also an excellent art director, a fantastic father, a doting grandfather and a gentleman. All of us making Spider-Man comics, and Marvel Comics in general, work in his shadow and strive to live up to the example of the legend, 'laddy John Romita.'"

— NICK LOWE



"One of the highlights of my career was working with John Romita Sr. I couldn't believe that my 25-year-old self was working and interacting with him, and what made it even better was that he was so considerate and kind – something that has stuck with me ever since, among many other memories with him. It was one of the rare moments where you meet one of your heroes and he exceeds your expectations in every possible way.

His contributions to Marvel's pantheon and culture are immense, and he will be sorely missed. He was a great and kind man who truly made the world a better place. My deepest condolences to Virginia, Johnny and the Romita family."

— DAN BUCKLEY

The Darkhold is a tome of unimaginable power, created as a conduit for the evil influence of the elder god Chthon. It was contained inside the soul of the Scarlet Witch until a newly rejuvenated Agatha Harkness secretly broke into Wanda's prison and stole Chthon's heart. What she plans to use it for is a mystery. Now heroes across the globe are clashing while Spider-Man and Jessica Jones race to find out why.



ANNUAL #1

Tony Stark is a genius inventor who built a high-tech suit of armor to escape having been kidnapped. Realizing its potential and upgrading the suit, he became a hero. Though he's faced many personal struggles, including a recent bankruptcy, he remains the incredible IRON MAN!

Ororo Munroe is a powerful mutant who has been a thief, goddess and leader of the X-Men. Using her abilities to manipulate the weather, she aims to seek peace with humankind and protect mutantkind as the super hero STORM!

CONTEST OF CHAOS: PART TWO

Writer Jason Loo Artist David Cutler

Color Artist Bryan Valenza **Letterer** VC's Joe Caramagna

Cover Artists **Francesco Manna & Jordie Bellaire**

Variant Cover Artist **Felipe Massafera**

Production Designer Gabriel Mata Assistant Editor Martin Biro

Editor Annalise Bissa Editor in Chief C.B. Cebulski

IRON MAN CREATED BY **STAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER, DON HECK & JACK KIRBY**

MOTHER NATURE COMMUNICATES TO ME IN THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WAYS. THE GENTLE BREEZE OF SUMMER. THE PITTER-PATTER OF A TORRENTIAL DOWNPOUR. THE CRASHING THUNDER OF A RAGING TEMPEST. EACH ONE I FIND VERY SOOTHING.

BUT AS OF LATE, VOICES CALLING ME FROM THE AETHER PUT ME AT UNEASE.

COME CLOSER, MY CHILD. ANOTHER LESSON AWAITS...

THAT IS **ACHMED EL GIBAR**. MY SURROGATE FATHER WHO RAISED ME IN CAIRO TO BE A THIEF. YET HE'S BEEN DEAD FOR MANY YEARS.

WEST COAST OF MEXICO.

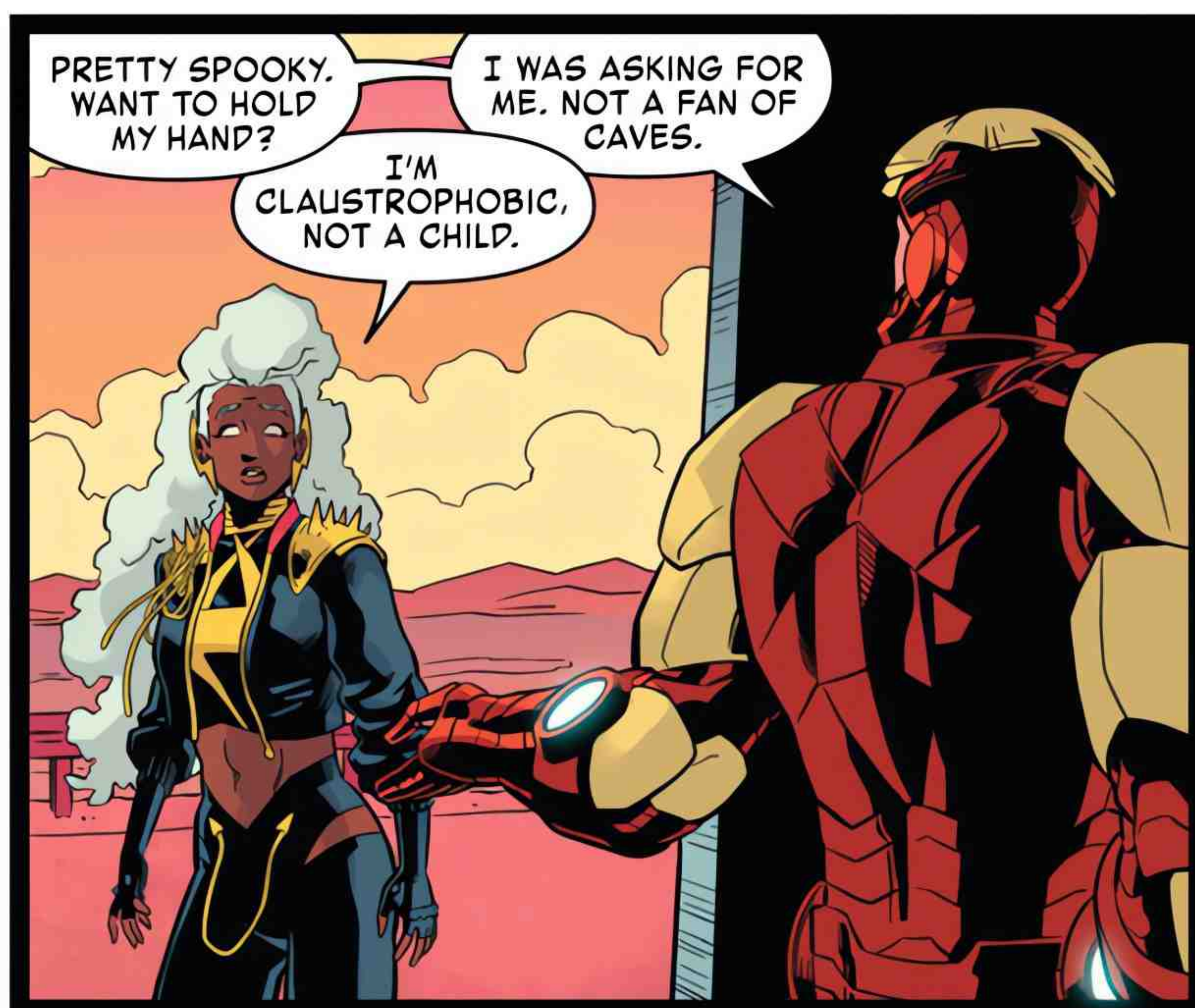
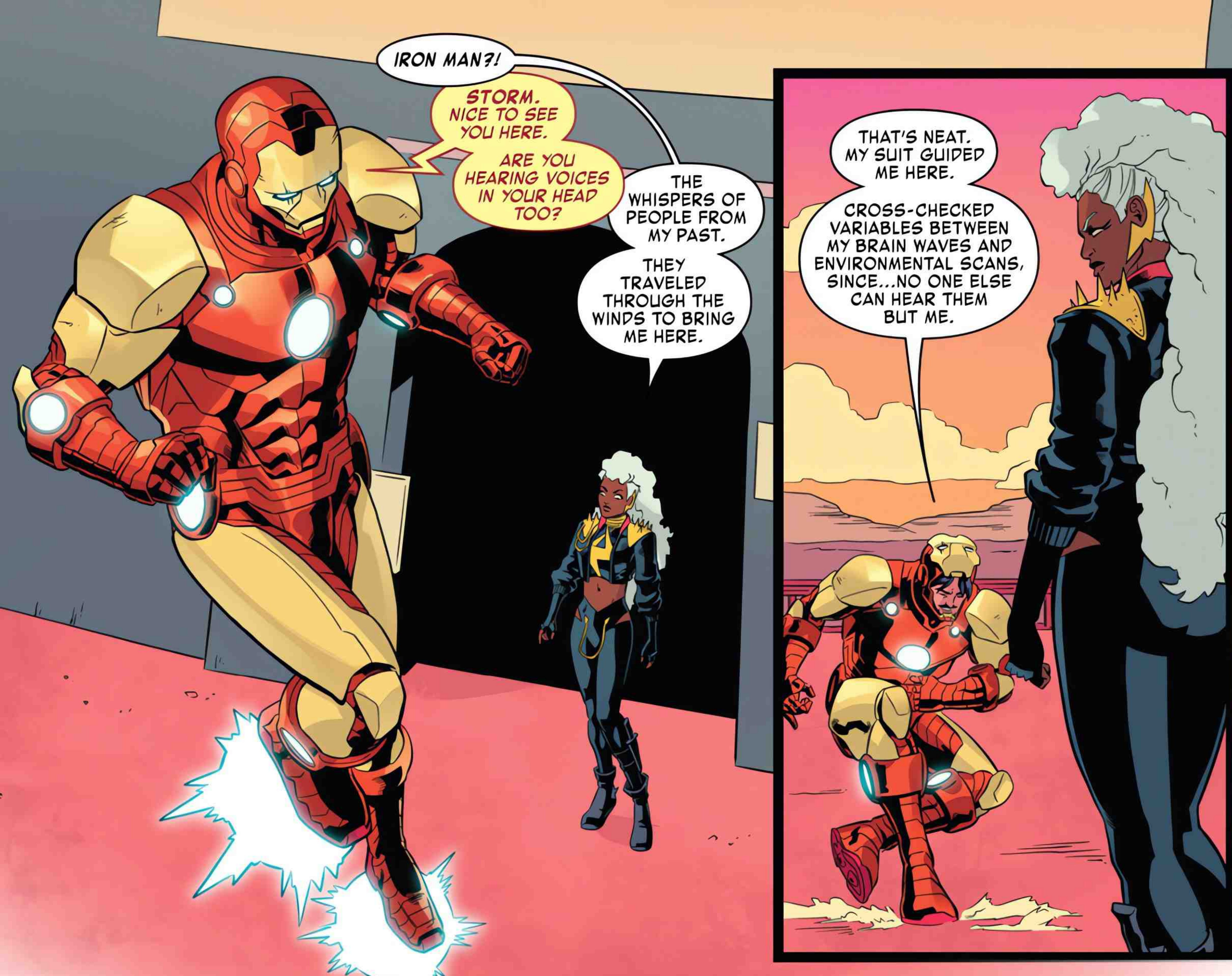
THE OTHER DAY ON **ARAKKO**, IT WAS THE YOUNG VOICE OF **AMANDA SEFTON**. FAINT AS IT WAS, NO ONE ELSE FROM THE GALACTIC COUNCIL COULD HEAR IT.

JEAN WAS ABLE TO REPLAY THE VOICES I'VE BEEN HEARING, BUT SHE'S CONVINCED THAT I AM THE ONLY ONE WHO'S EXPERIENCING THESE PROJECTIONS.

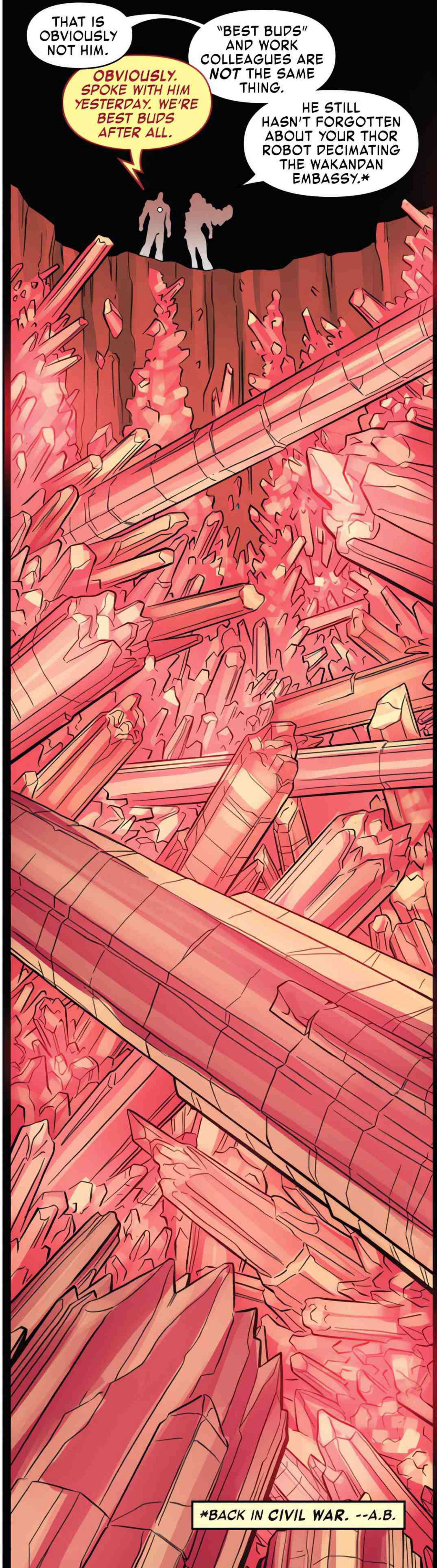
THE VOICES BECOME CLEARER AS I DESCEND BACK TO EARTH.

WINDS, PLEASE GUIDE ME TO THE ROOT OF WHATEVER SPIRITS AWAIT ME.









THAT IS OBVIOUSLY NOT HIM.

OBVIOUSLY. SPOKE WITH HIM YESTERDAY. WE'RE BEST BUDS AFTER ALL.

"BEST BUDS" AND WORK COLLEAGUES ARE NOT THE SAME THING.

HE STILL HASN'T FORGOTTEN ABOUT YOUR THOR ROBOT DECIMATING THE WAKANDAN EMBASSY.*

*BACK IN CIVIL WAR. --A.B.



I'M SORRY, DIDN'T YOU TWO HAVE AN UGLY DIVORCE?*

AND DIDN'T YOU UPSET EVERYONE IN WAKANDA BY STEALING ONE OF THEIR PRIZED SWORDS?***

*IN AVENGERS VS. X-MEN. --A.B.

***IN X OF SWORDS. --A.B.



BOTH SITUATIONS HAVE BEEN AMICABLY RESOLVED.

THERE MUST BE A REASON THESE CRYSTALS ARE DRAWING ME HERE...

...I WOULD CONCENTRATE BETTER WITHOUT YOUR BABBLING.

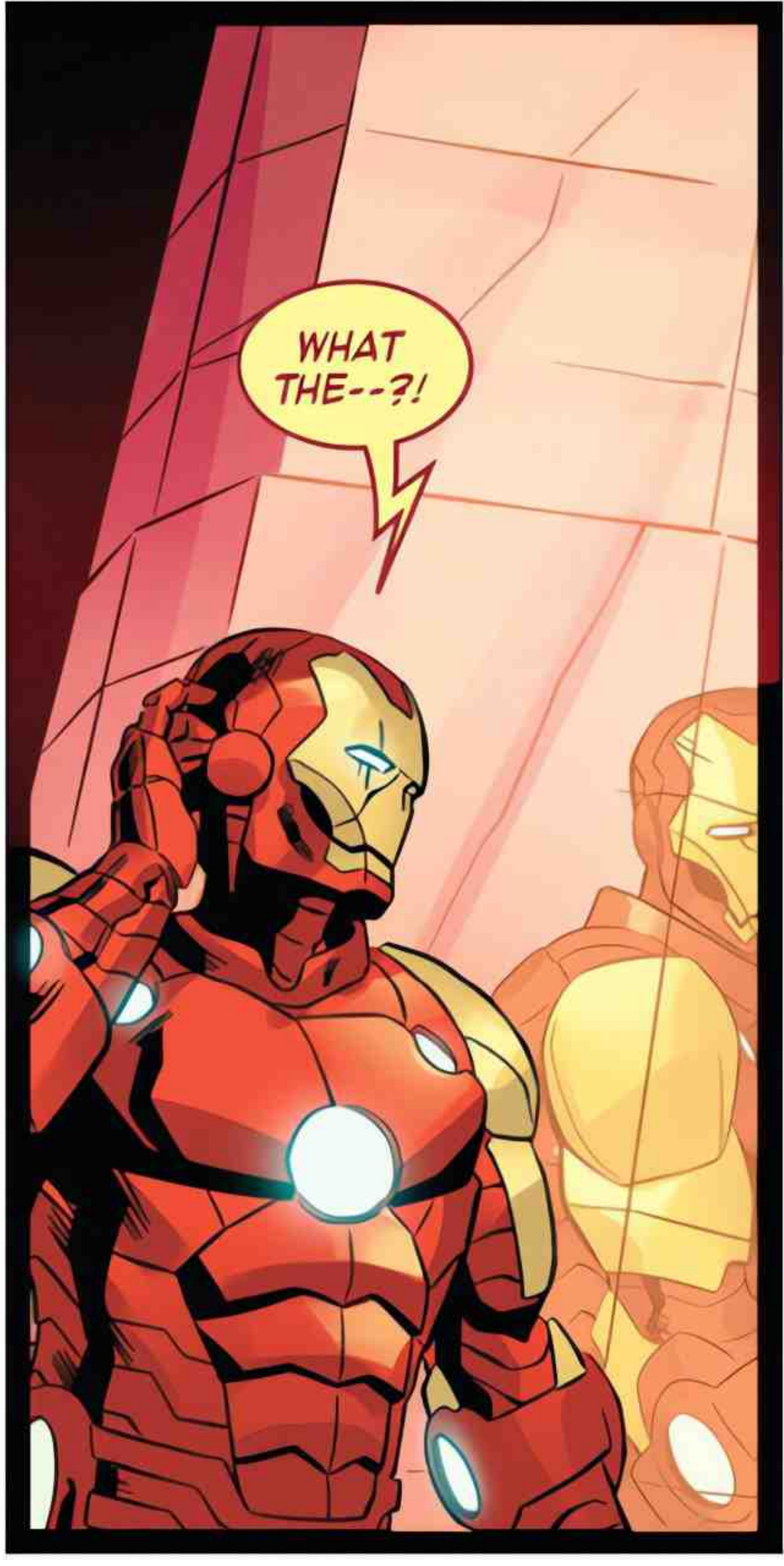


IF THESE MINES GET TOO TIGHT FOR YOUR LIKING, SCREAM "MARCO."

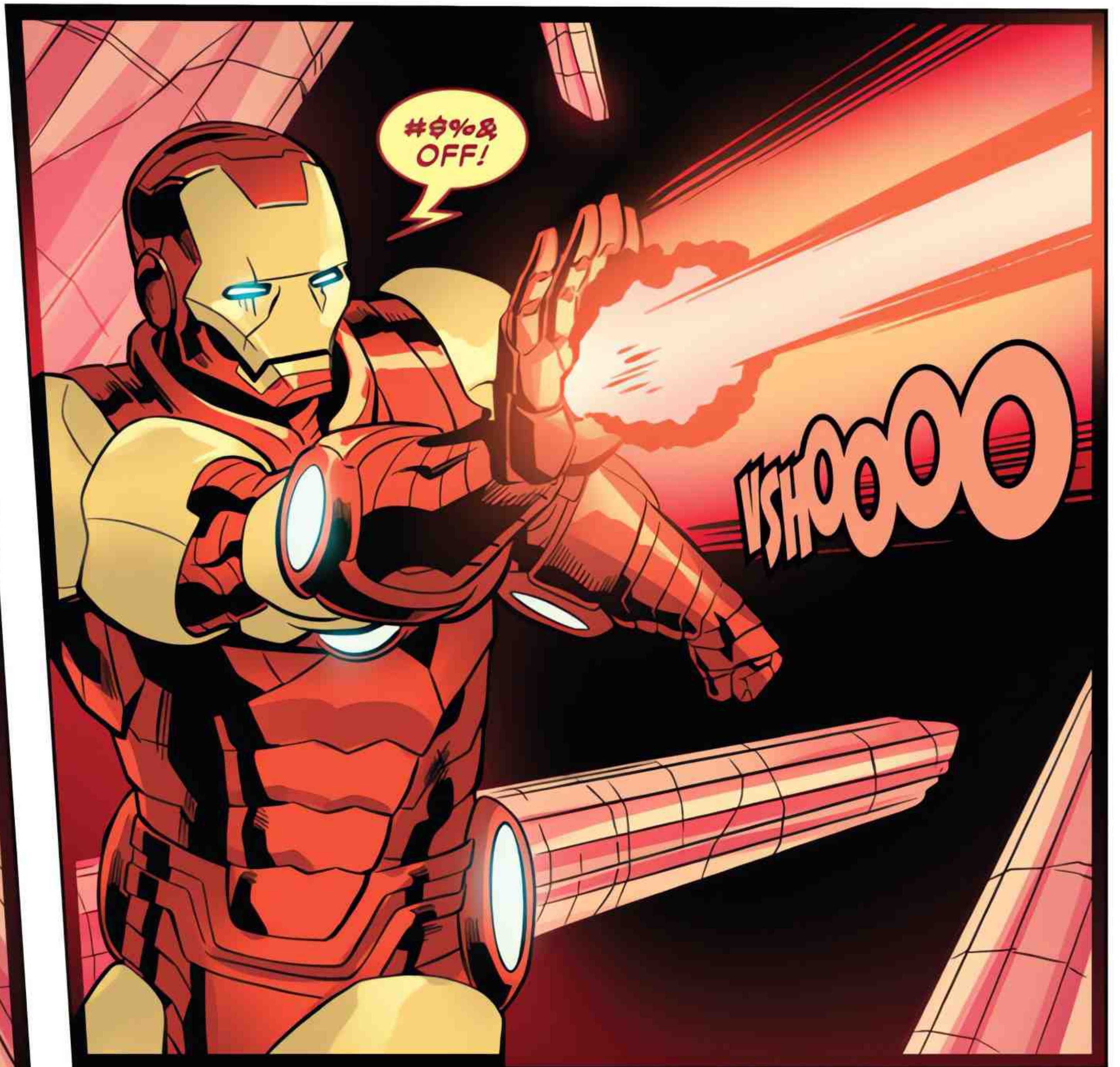
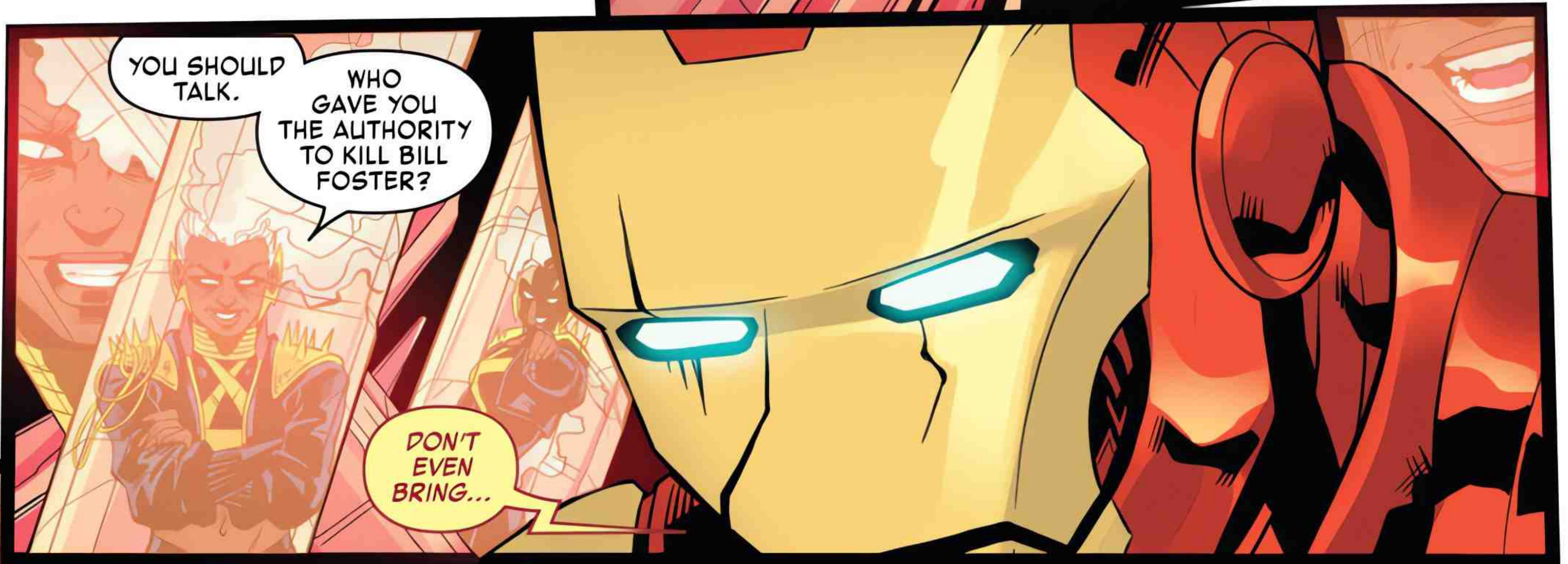
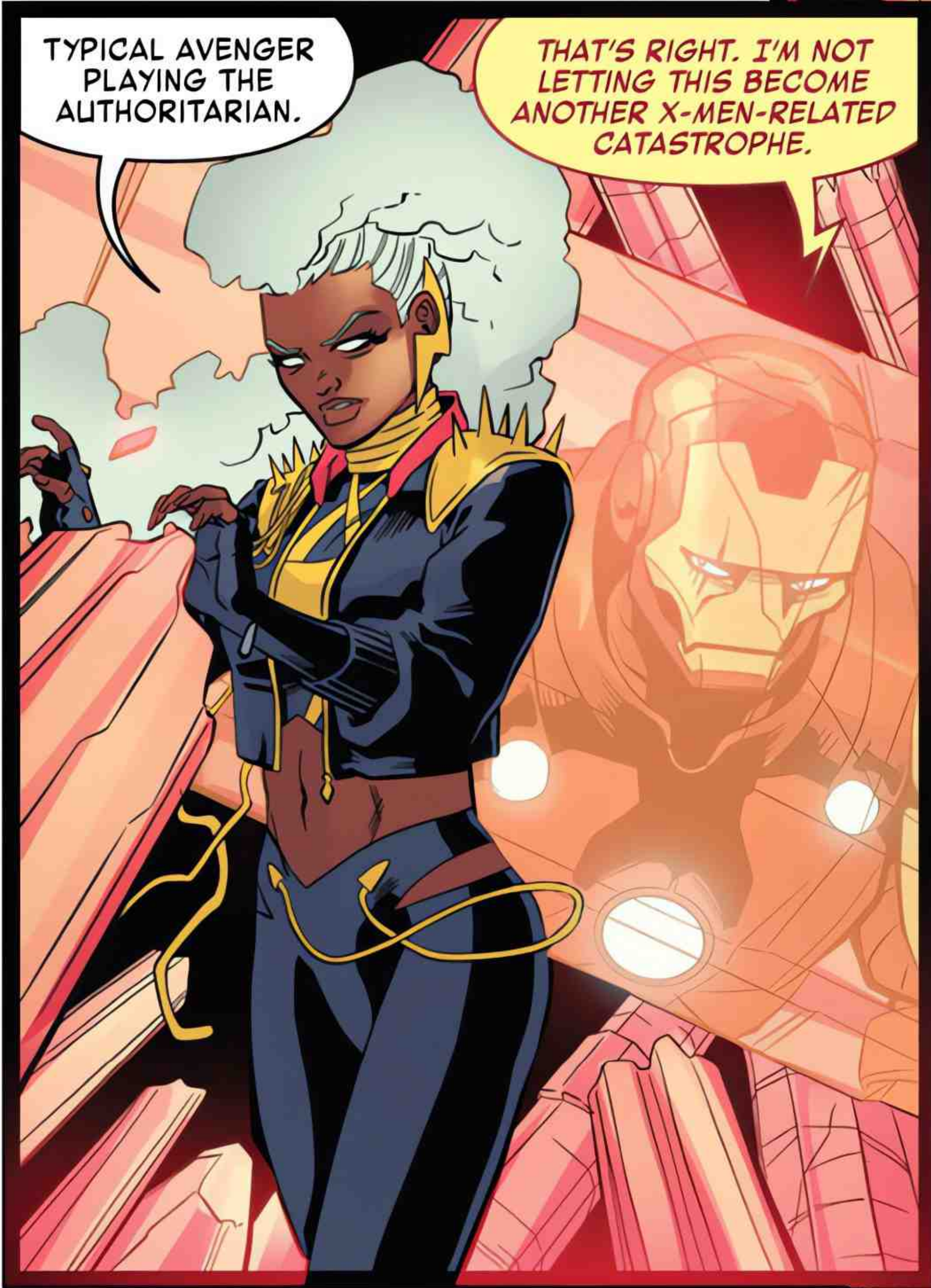
I'M CALLING IT IN. THIS IS NOW OFFICIALLY AVENGERS BUSINESS.

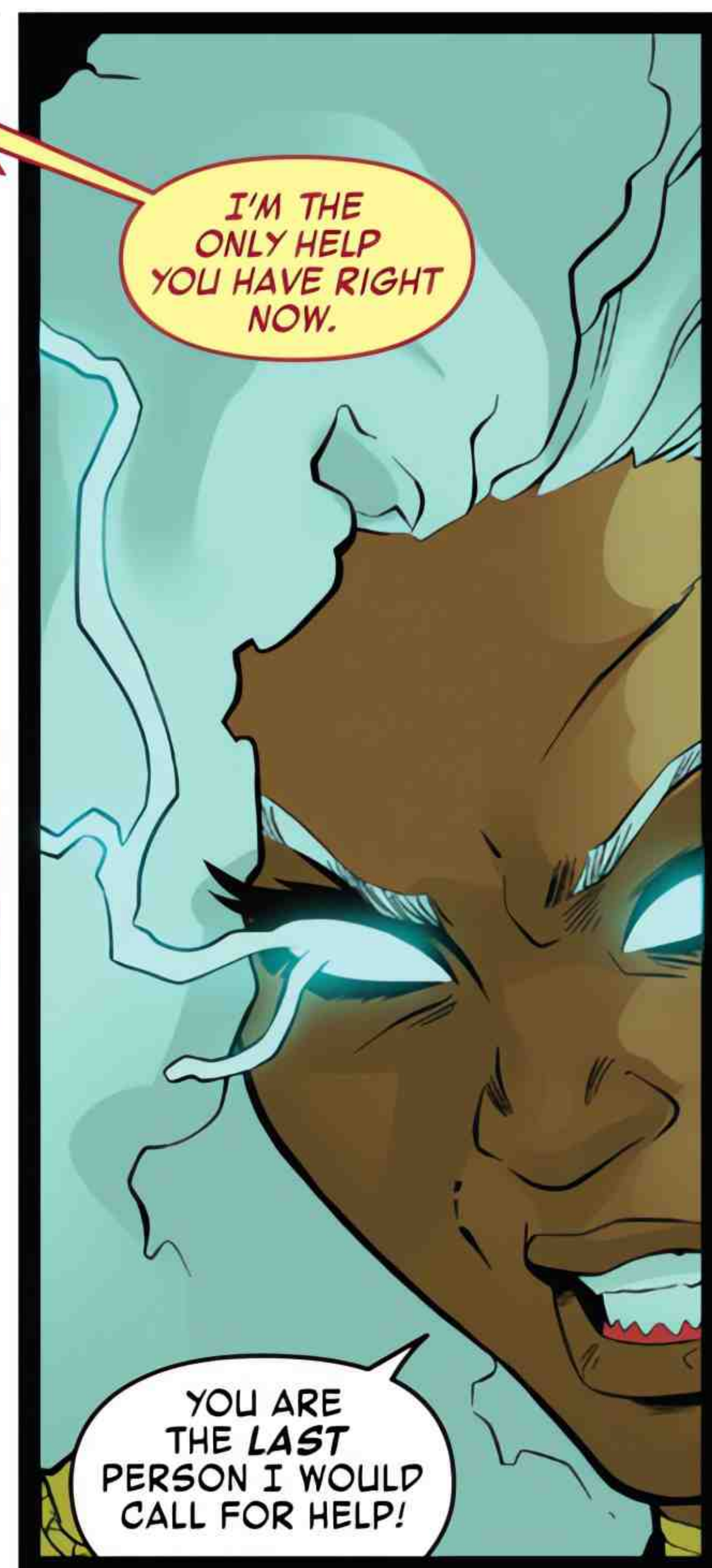
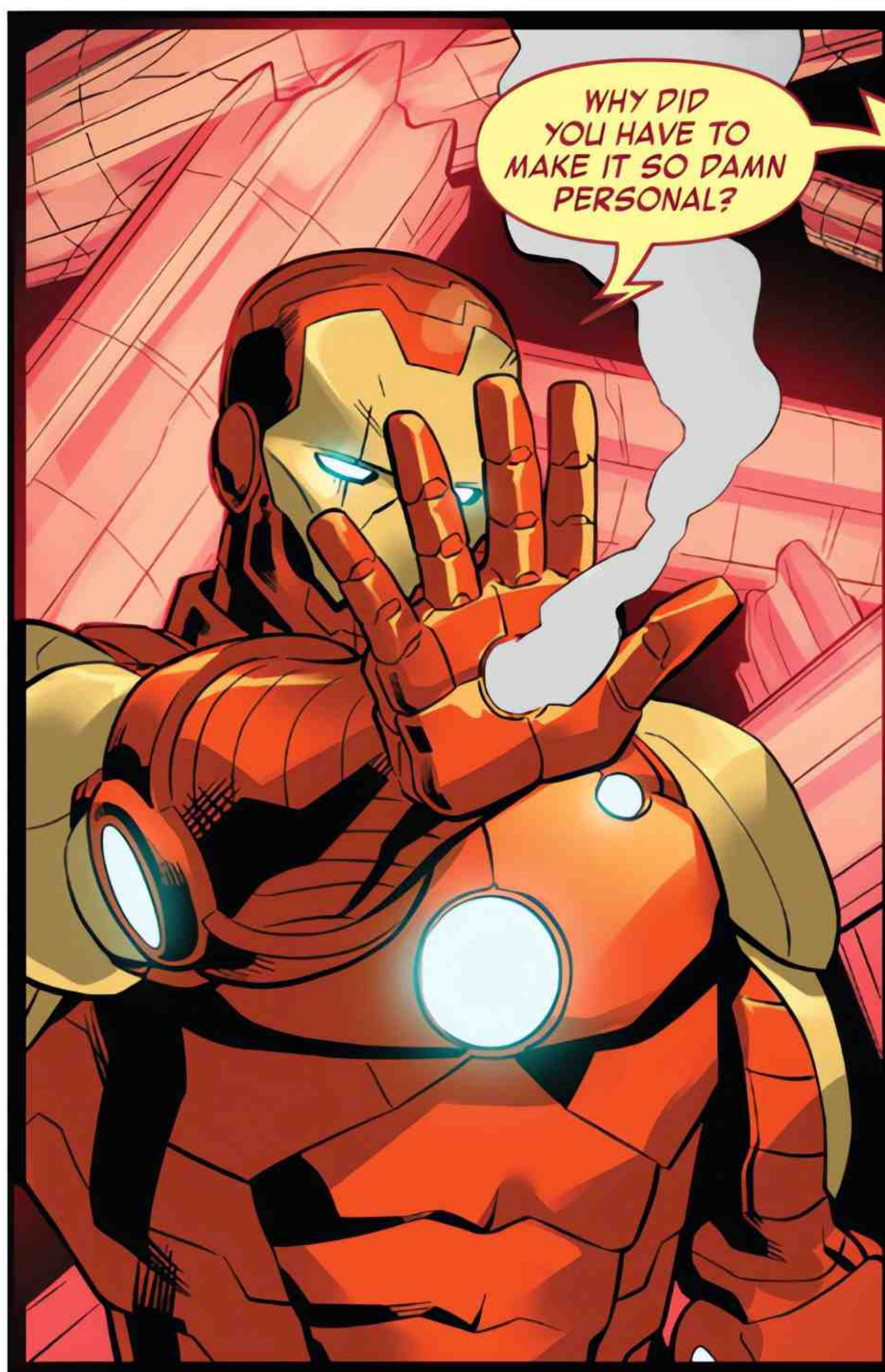
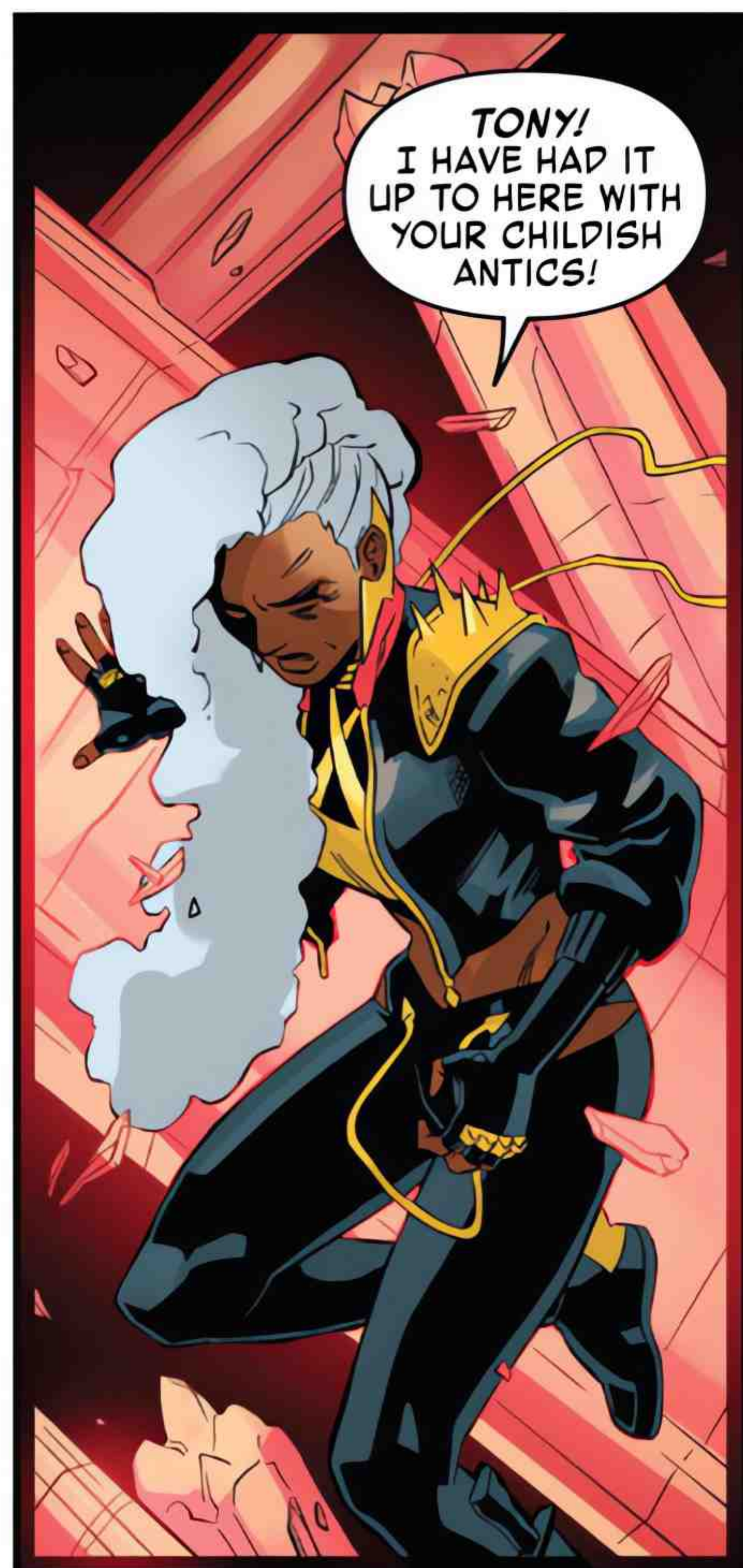
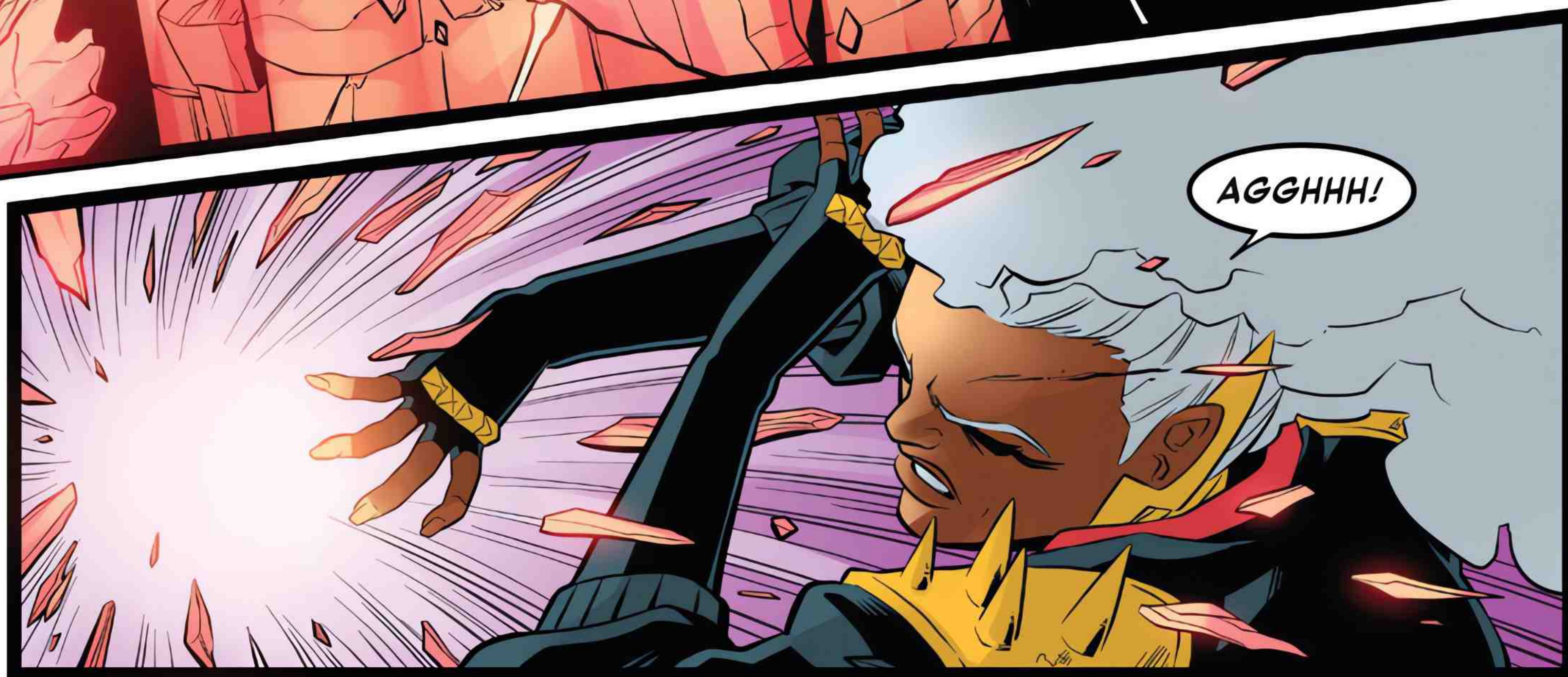


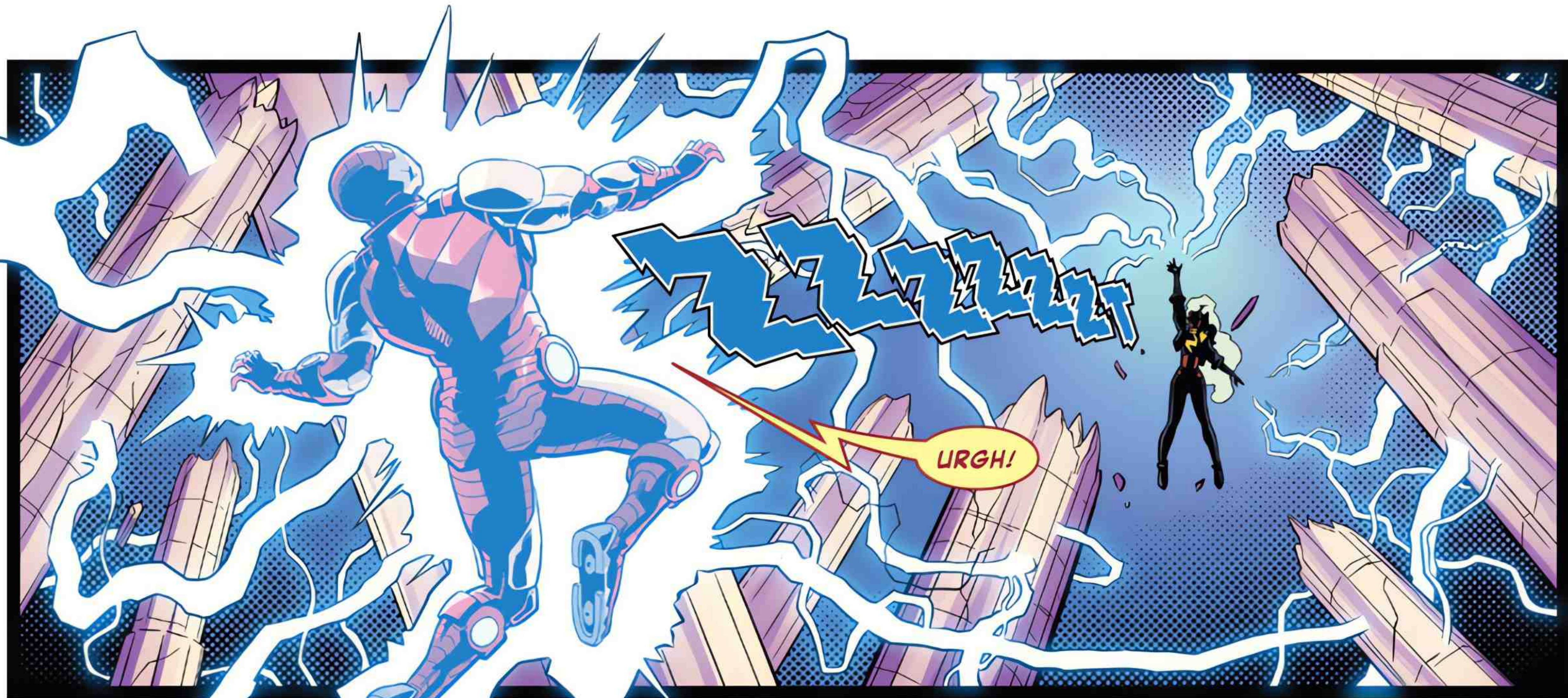
HUH. MY COMM LINK IS PICKING UP LOTS OF INTERFERENCE--

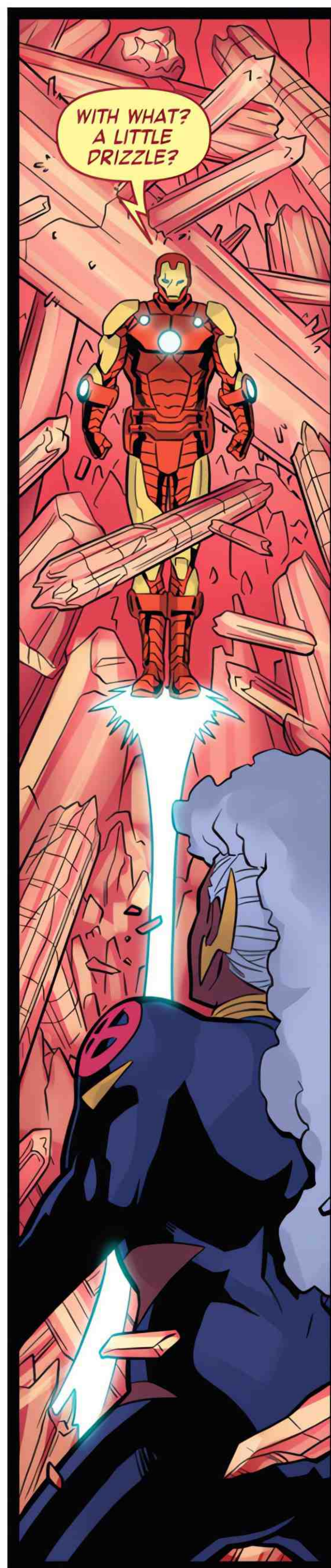
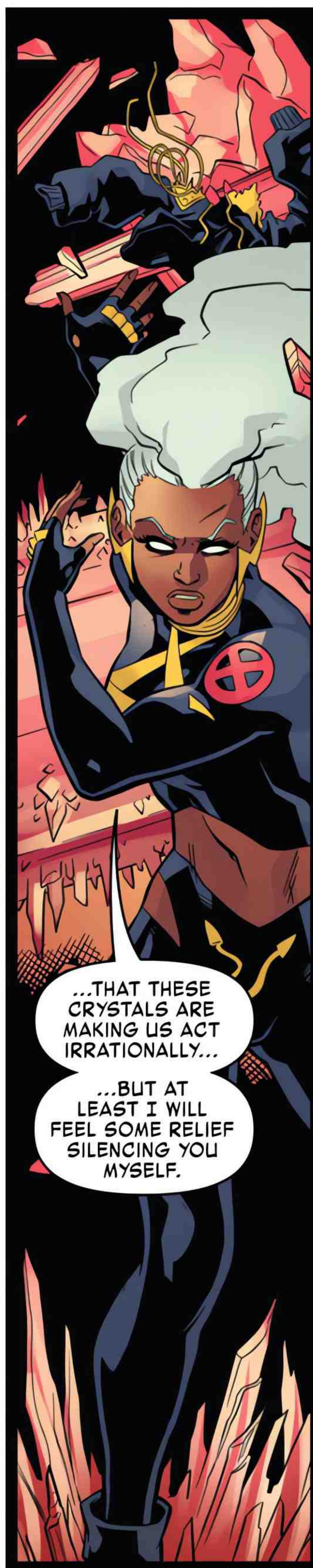


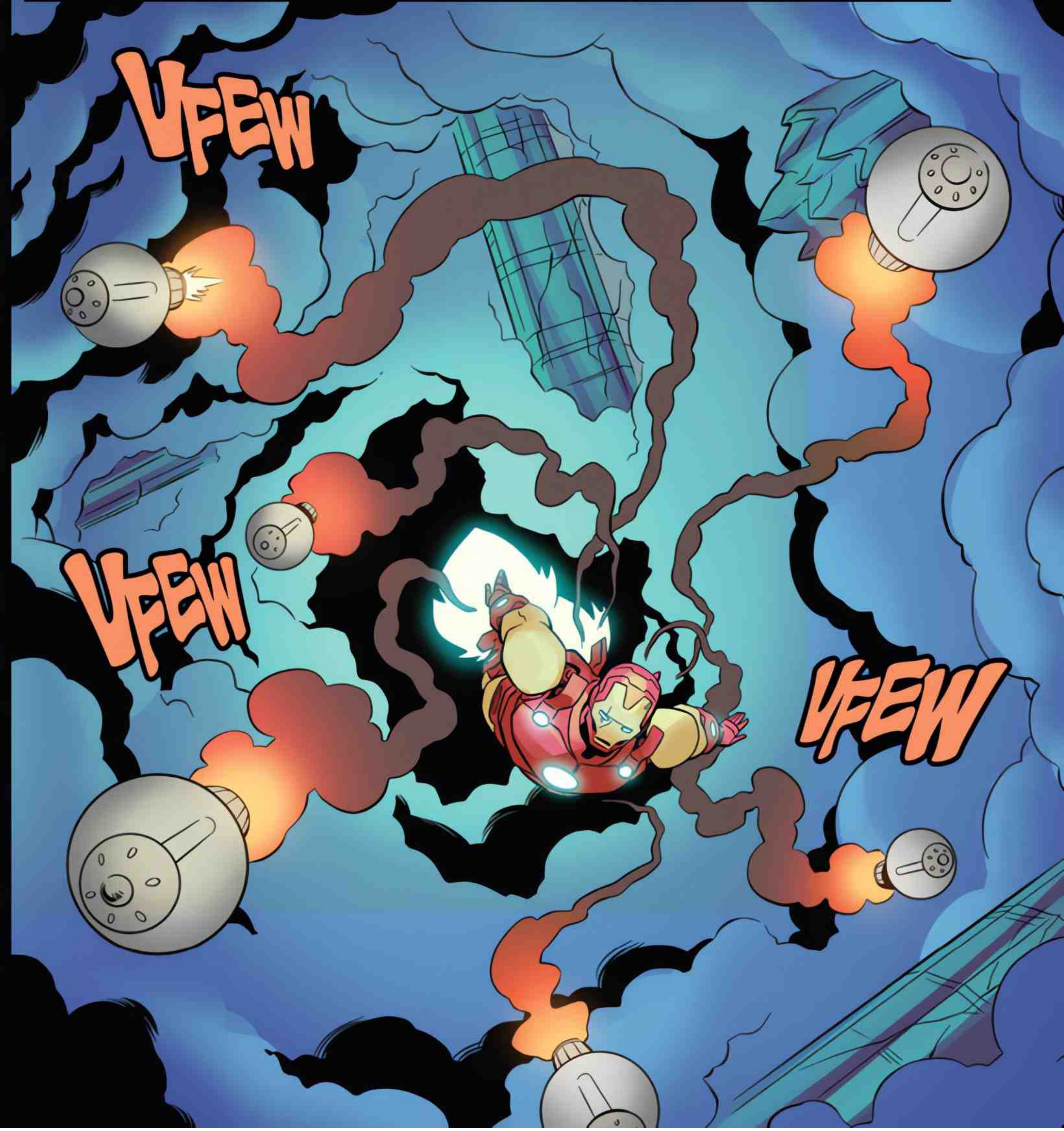
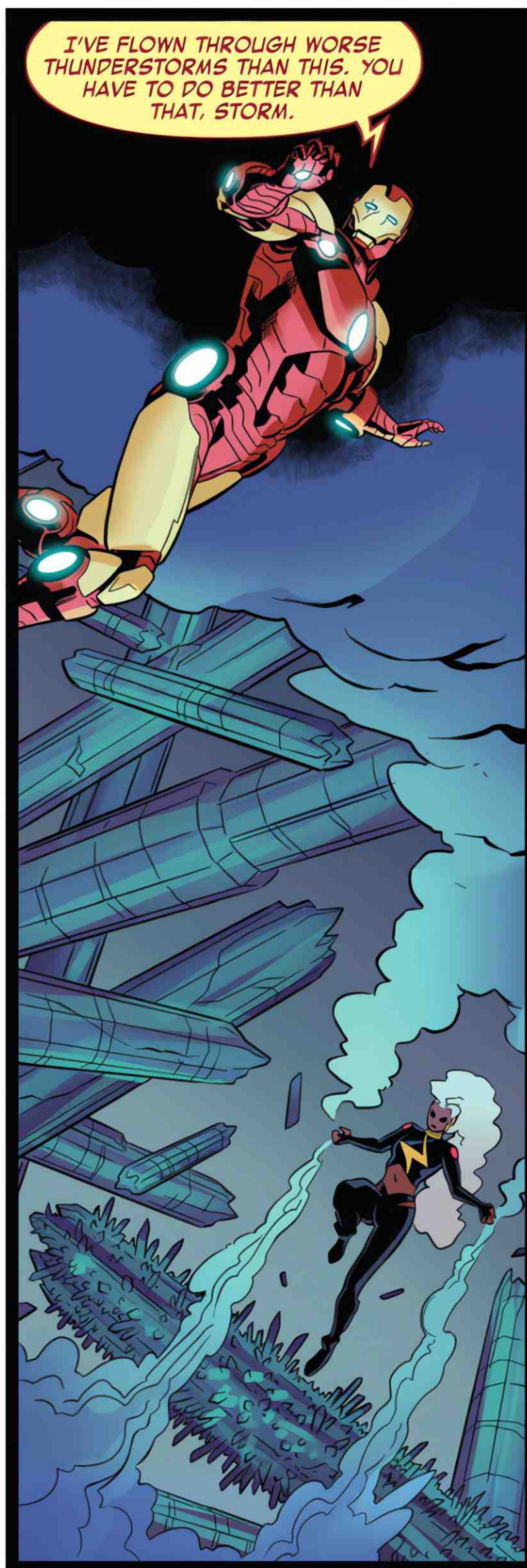
WHAT THE--?!

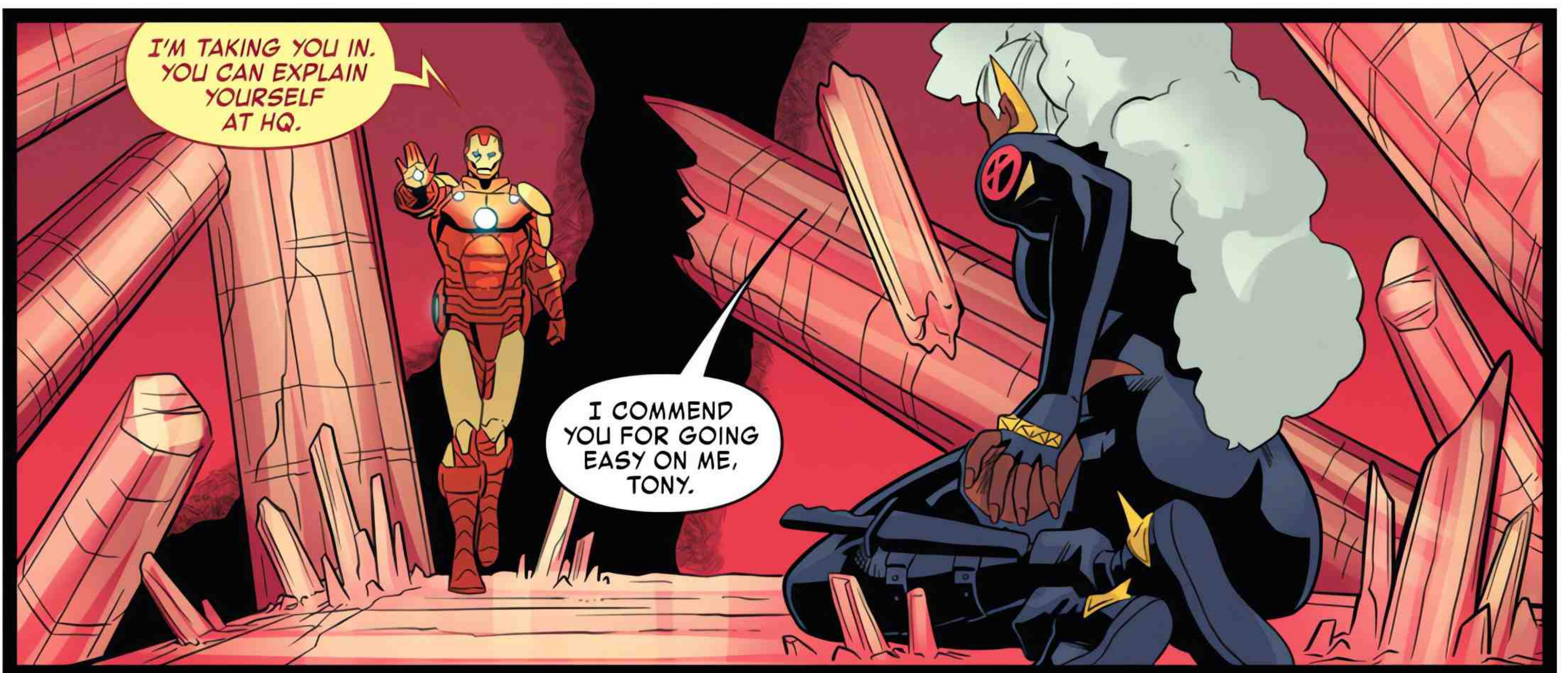
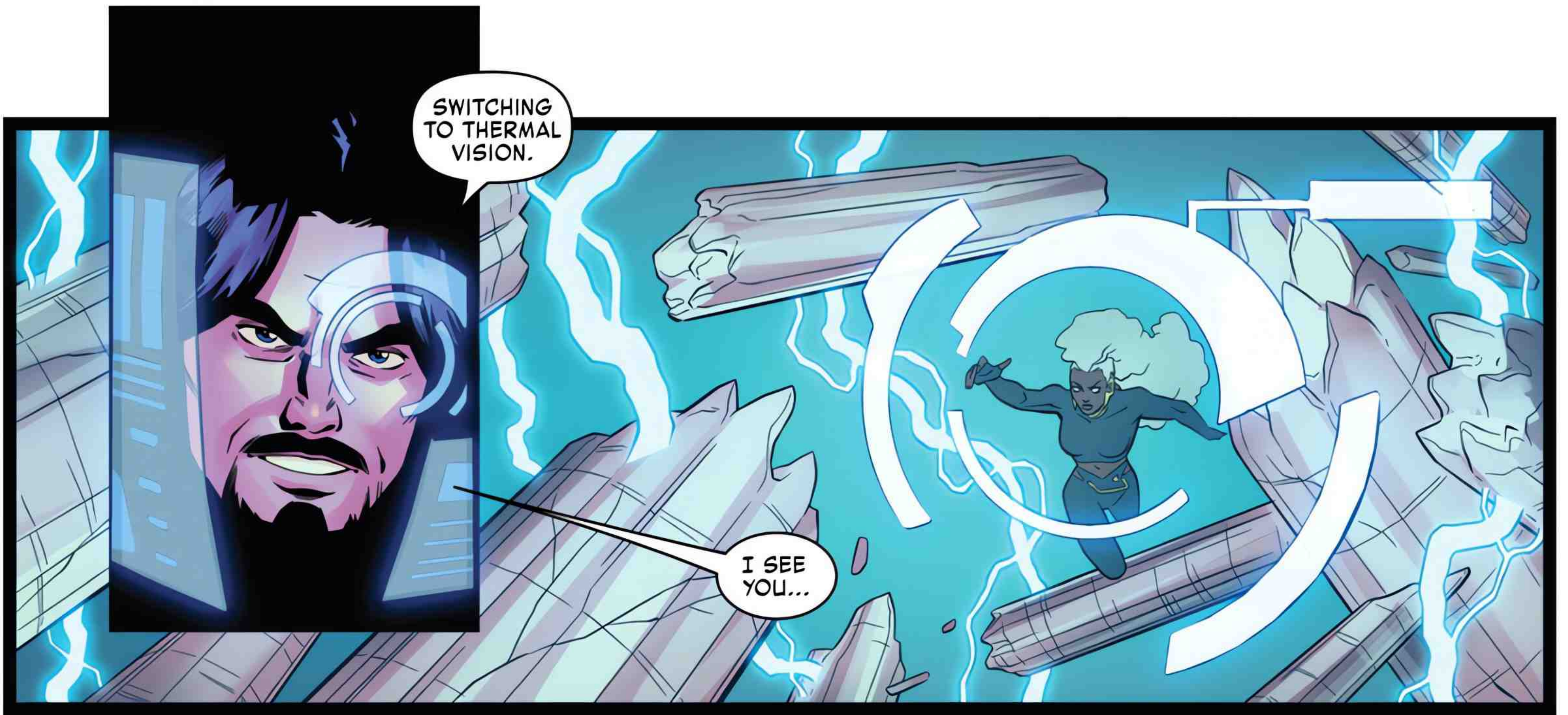


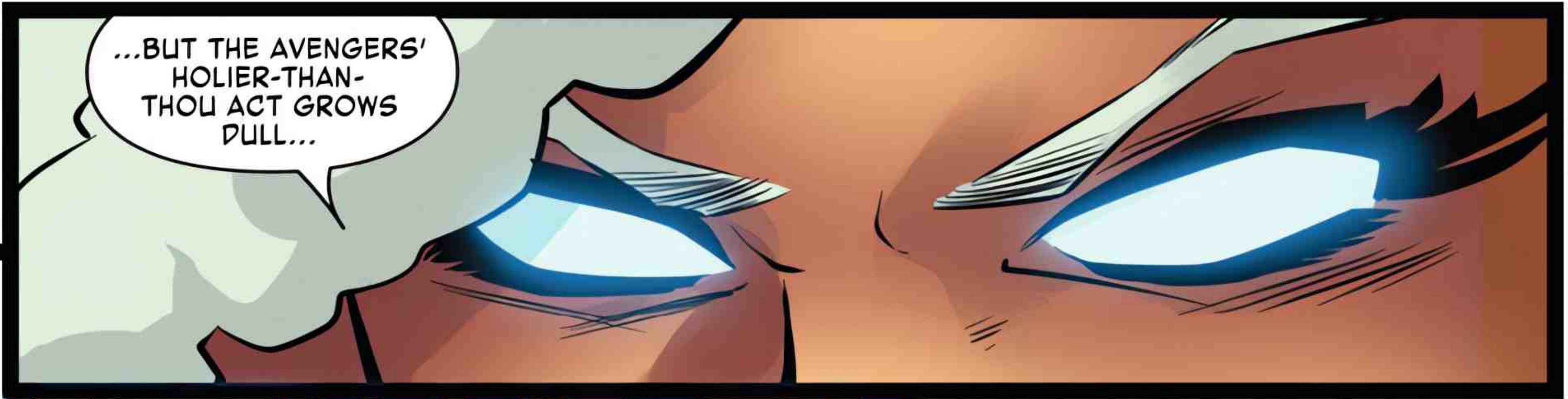




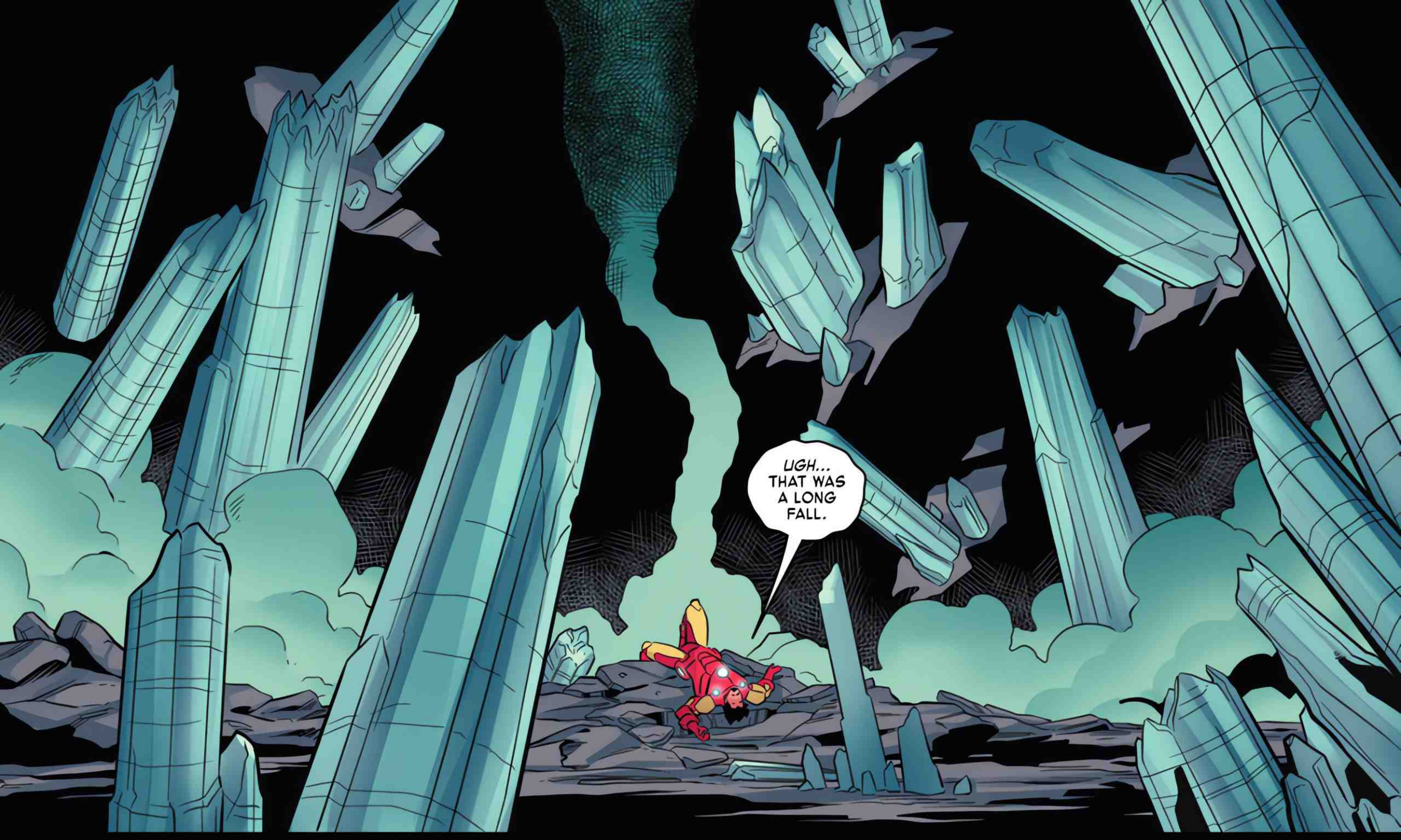


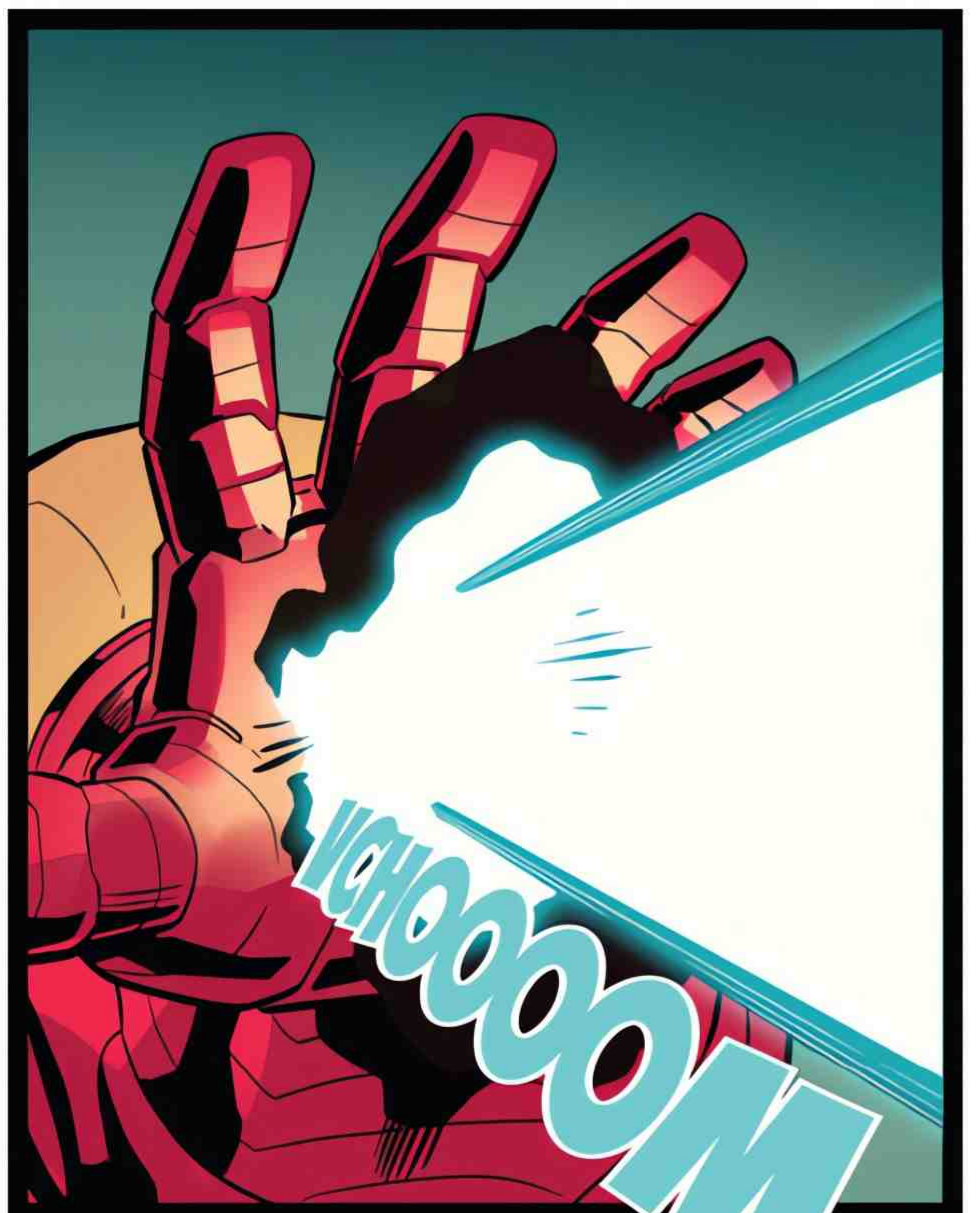


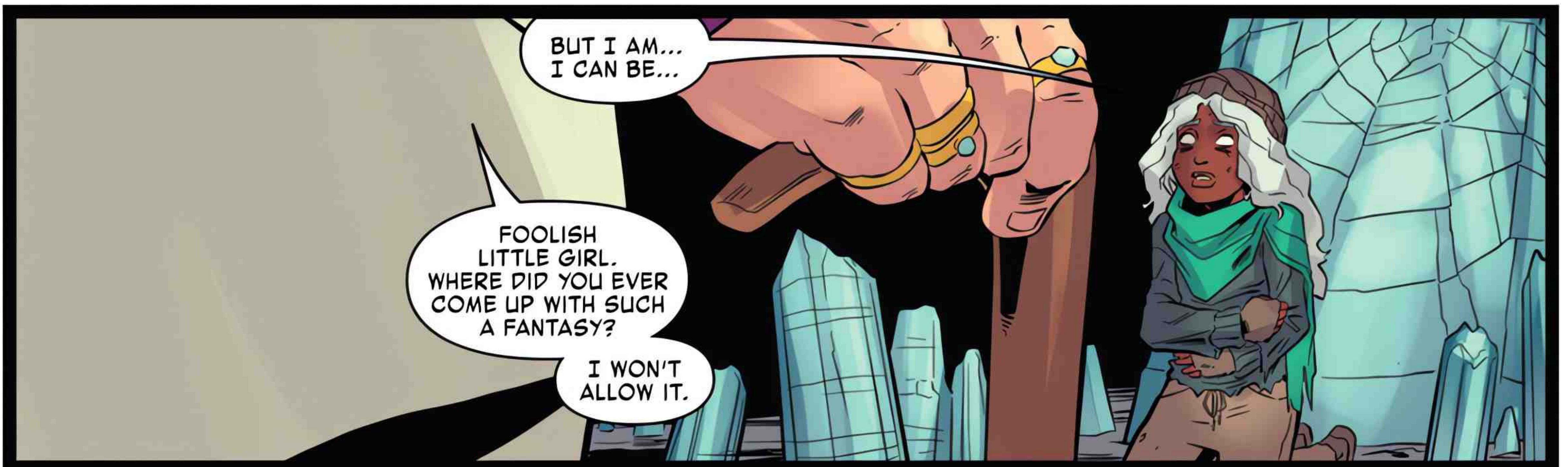
















WHY COULDN'T YOU SAVE ME FROM BLACKHEART, TONY?*

PATSY?!

BUT YOU DIDN'T NEED SAVING! YOU BEAT HIM WITHOUT ME.

THEN WHY DID I EVER NEED YOU IN MY LIFE?

I DON'T KNOW... COMEDIC RELIEF AFTER A DAY OF FIGHTING ANDROIDS AND DEMONS?

PATS! I'M BURNING--
AHHH!

*SEE IRON MAN/HELLCAT ANNUAL #1. --A.B.



FRIENDS FOREVER, AM I RIGHT? NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO DIE!

HAPPY! PATS, PLEASE!
HAOW-HAAH--



GET THE HELL OFF ME!

PEW

PEW

PEW

PEW

PEW





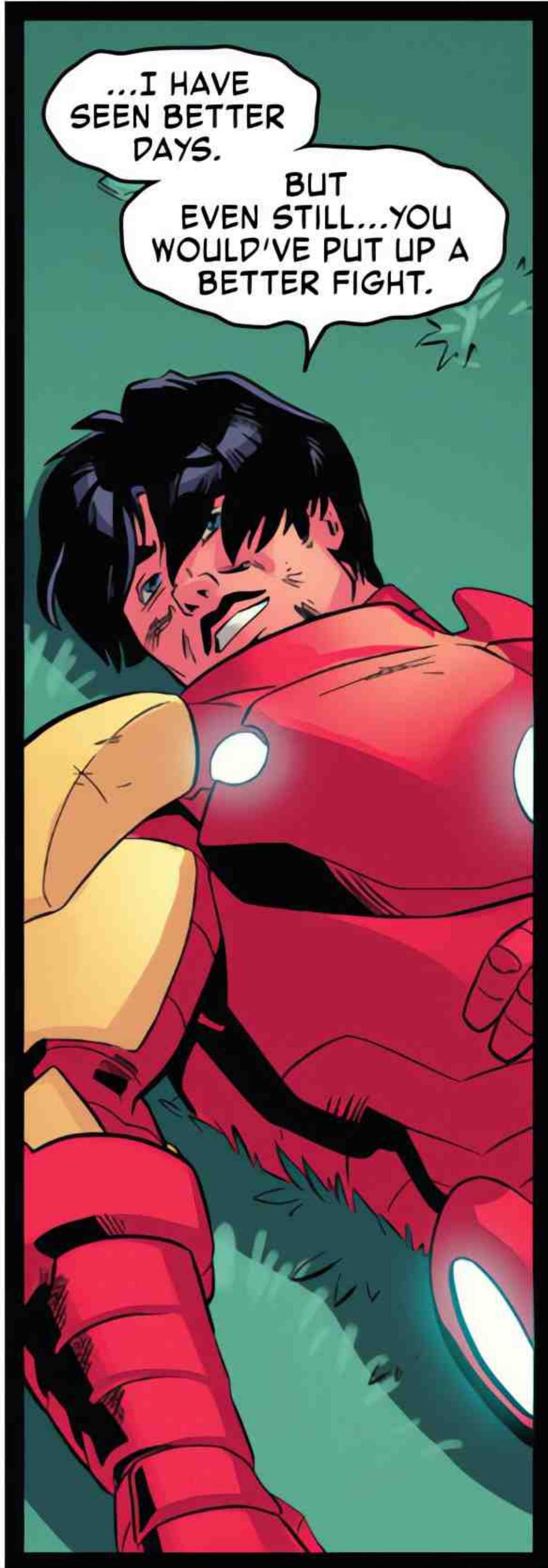




THE CRYSTALS--!

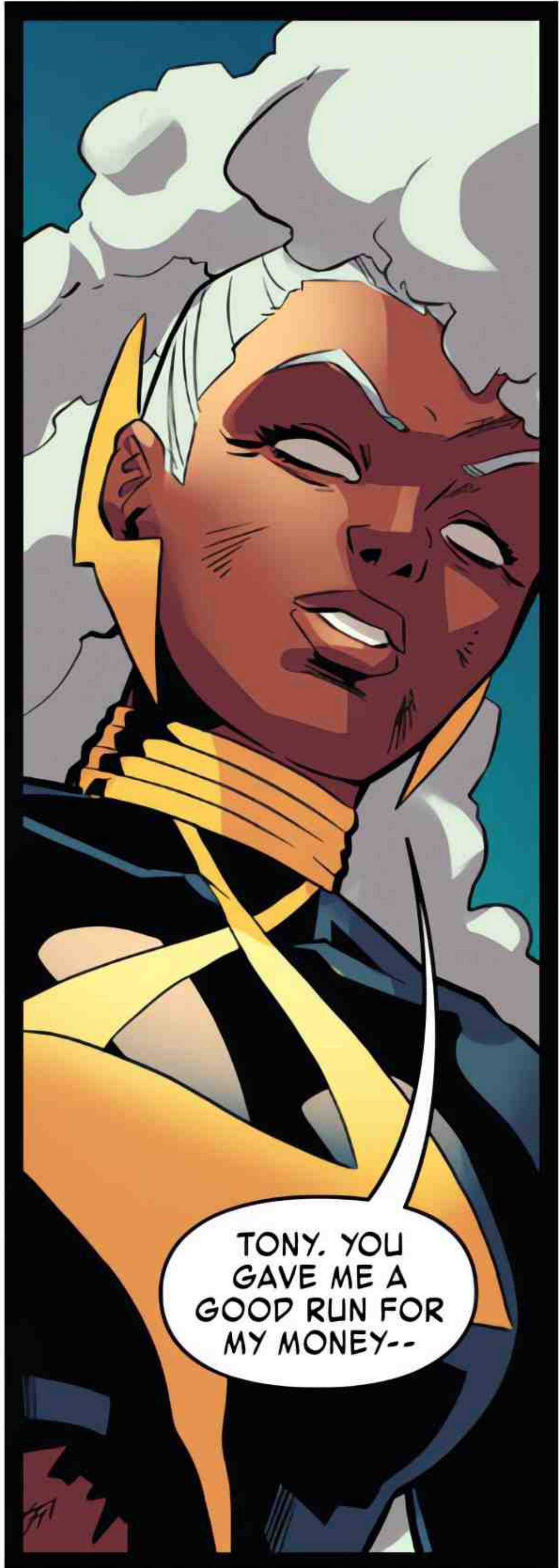
WHAT WAS ALL THIS FIGHTING FOR? WHY DID YOU DRAW US OUT HERE?

YOU'RE RIGHT...



...I HAVE SEEN BETTER DAYS.

BUT EVEN STILL...YOU WOULD'VE PUT UP A BETTER FIGHT.



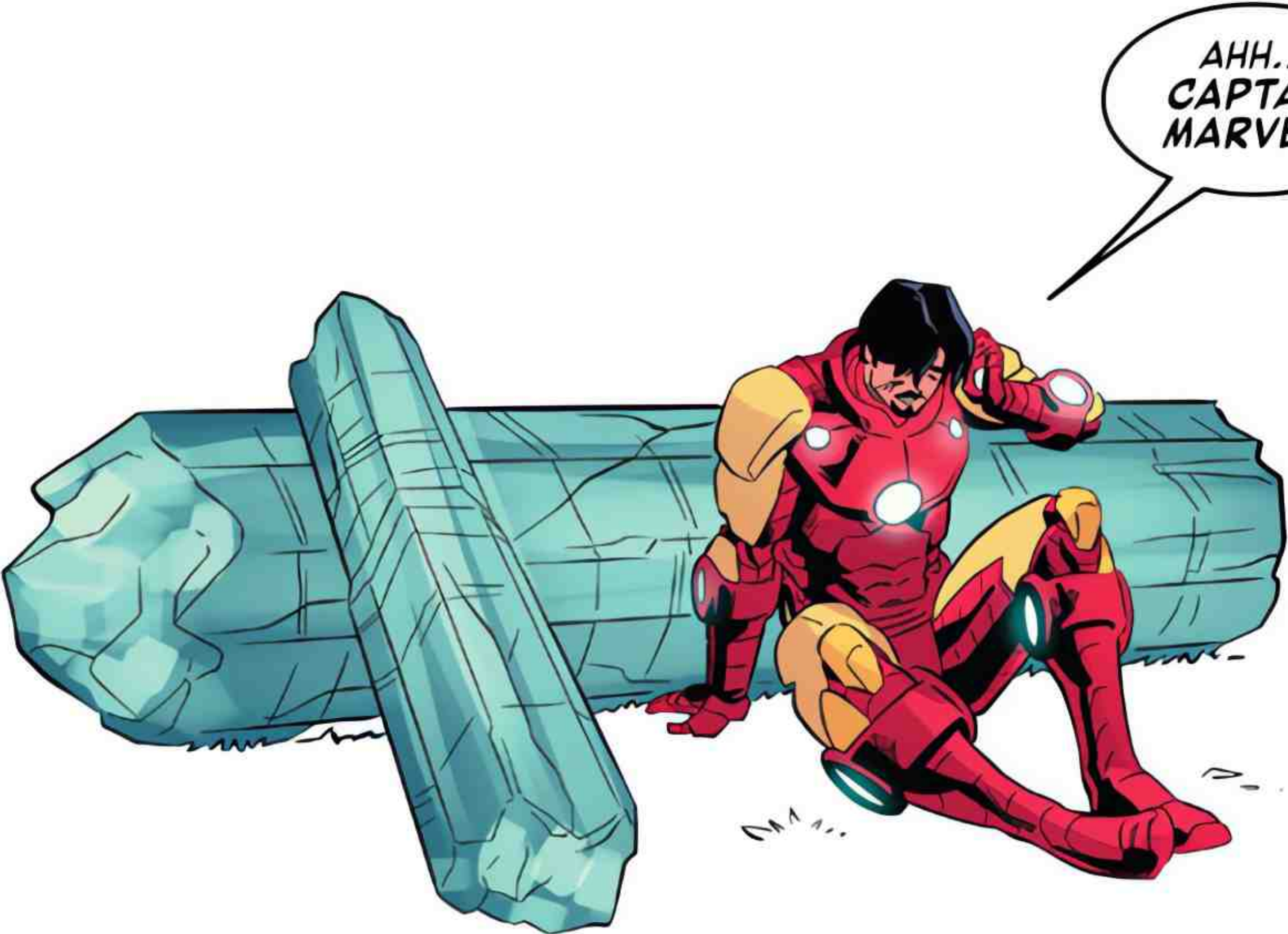
TONY. YOU GAVE ME A GOOD RUN FOR MY MONEY--



STORM?!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!

SOMETHING IS TAKING ME--??



AHH... CAPTAIN MARVEL?

I JUST GOT THROUGH ANOTHER WEIRD TWILIGHT ZONE EPISODE.

ANY CHANCE YOU CAN GIVE ME A LIFT HOME?

**TO BE CONTINUED IN
FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #1!**

**CONTEST
OF CHAOS
PART 2**

Writer:
Stephanie Phillips
Artist:
Alberto Focse
Colorist:
Raúl Angulo
Assistant Editor:
Kaitlyn Lindtvedt
Editor:
Alanna Smith

OBVIOUSLY,
WE'RE DEALING
WITH SOME KIND
OF **MAGIC**
HERE.

**JESSICA JONES' OFFICE,
NEW YORK CITY.**

THAT
SHOULD HELP GIVE
US A PLACE TO START
INVESTIGATING,
RIGHT?

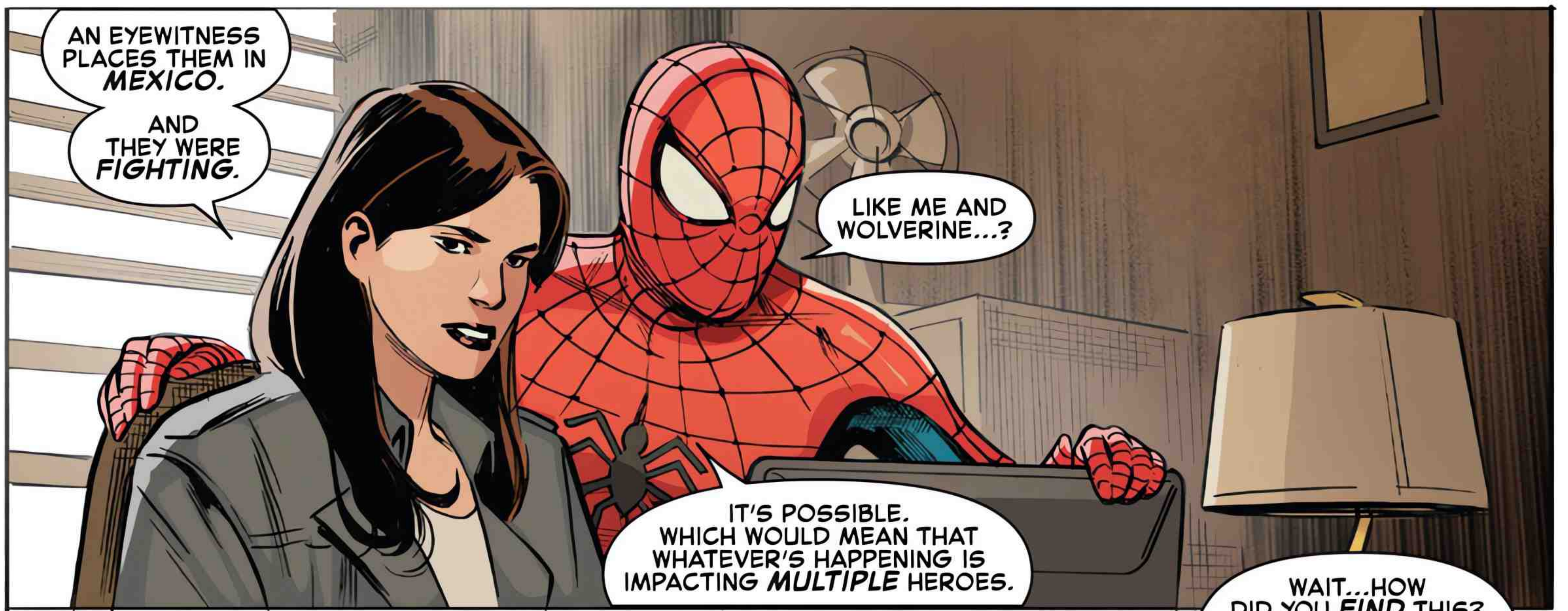
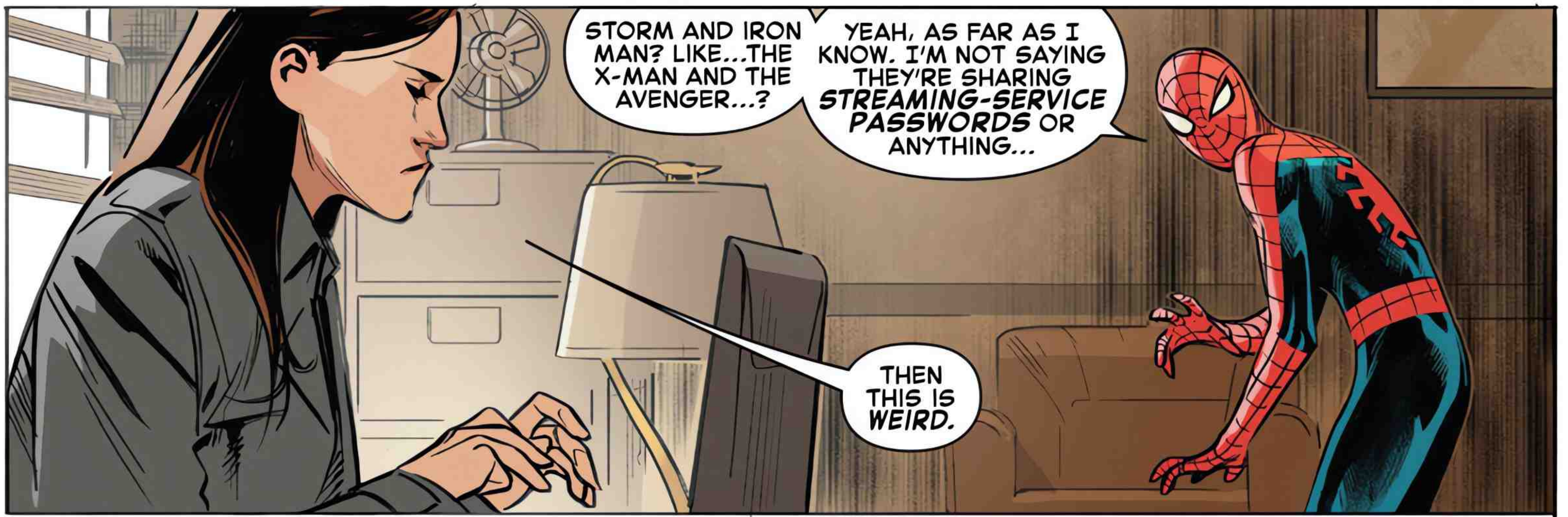
I MEAN,
WE JUST MAKE A LIST OF
EVERYONE WE KNOW WHO CAN
DO LITTLE ZAPS WITH THEIR
FINGERS AND THEN CALL THEM
UP UNTIL WE FIND THE PERSON
RESPONSIBLE FOR **KIDNAPPING**
WOLVERINE WITH A
MAGICAL PORTAL.

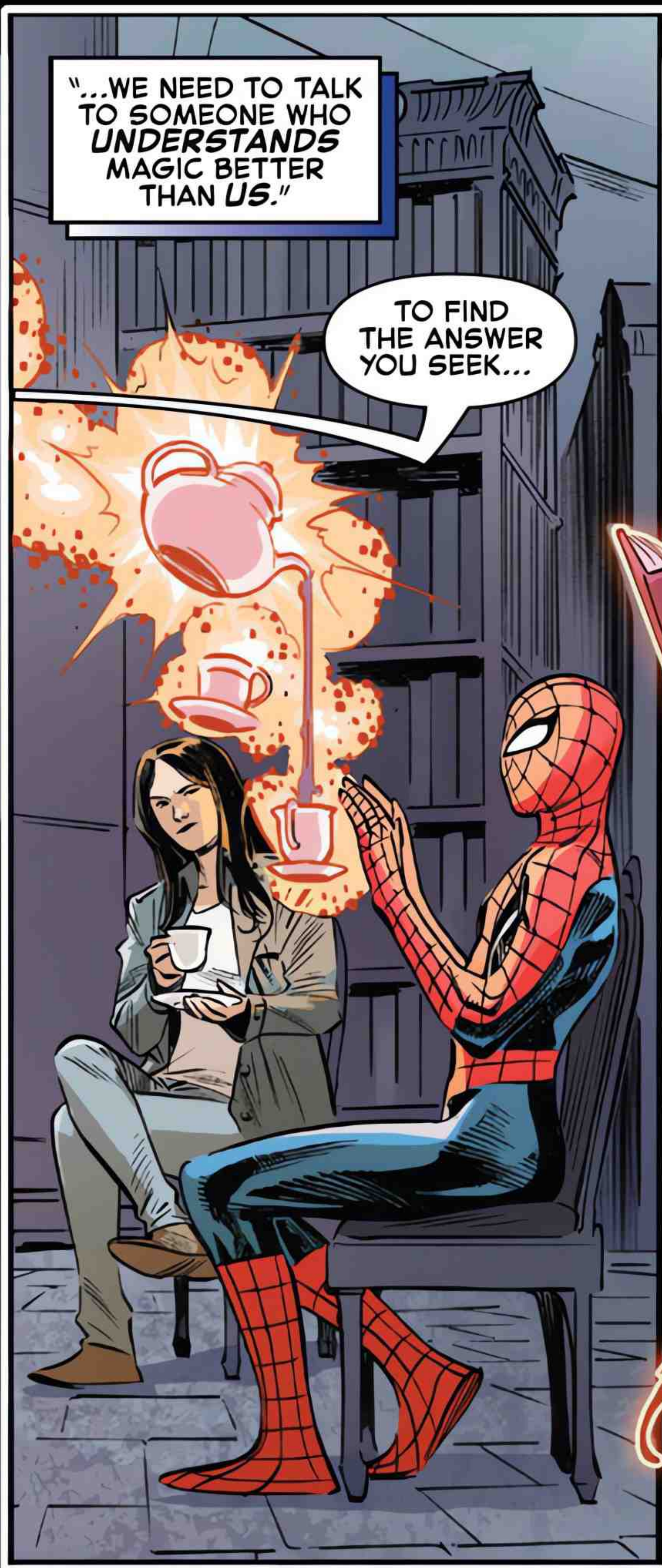
THERE'S ENCHANTRESS,
CLEA STRANGE, WONG,
SCARLET WITCH,
STEPHEN STRANGE,
LOKI...

I AM SUDDENLY
REALIZING THAT WE
KNOW A LOT OF PEOPLE
WITH MAGICAL
ABILITIES...

AND WE DON'T EVEN HAVE A **MOTIVE**...
THIS WILL BE LIKE LOOKING FOR A
MAGICAL NEEDLE IN A MAGICAL
HAYSTACK IN A MAGICAL
MULTIVERSE OF--

DO
STORM AND
IRON MAN GET
ALONG?



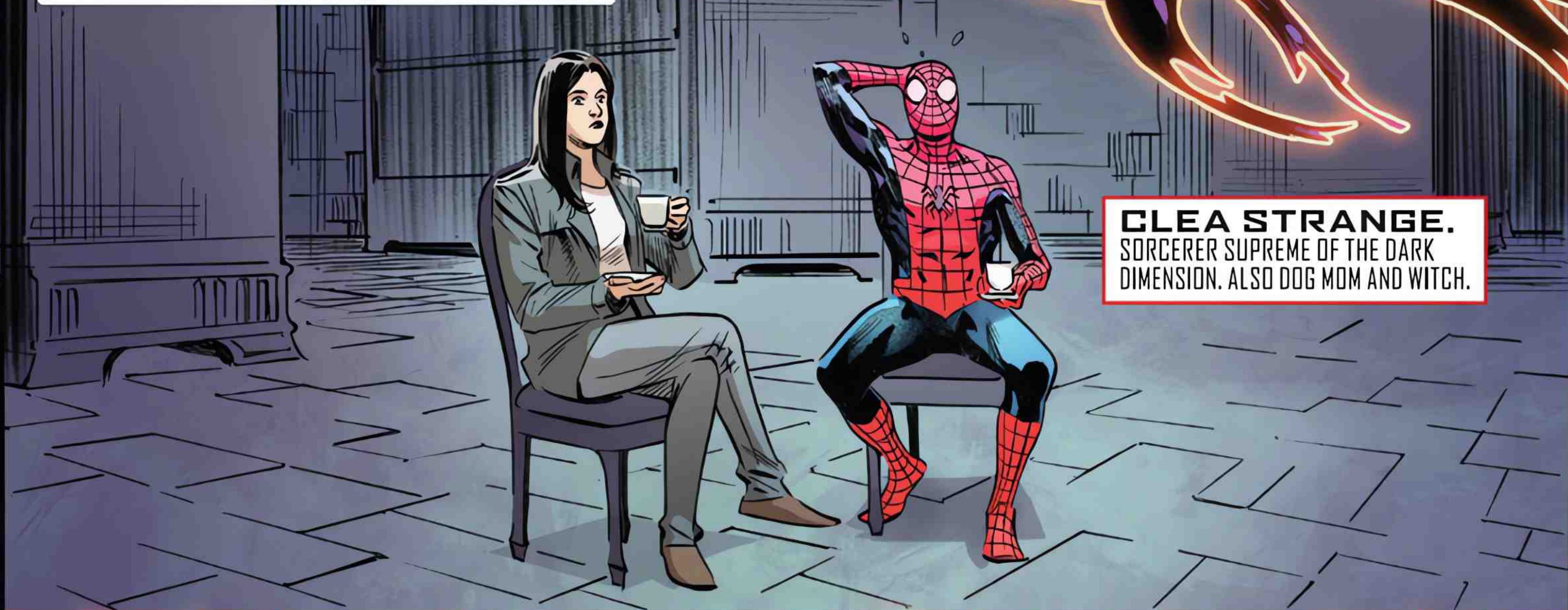


"...WE NEED TO TALK TO SOMEONE WHO **UNDERSTANDS** MAGIC BETTER THAN **US**."

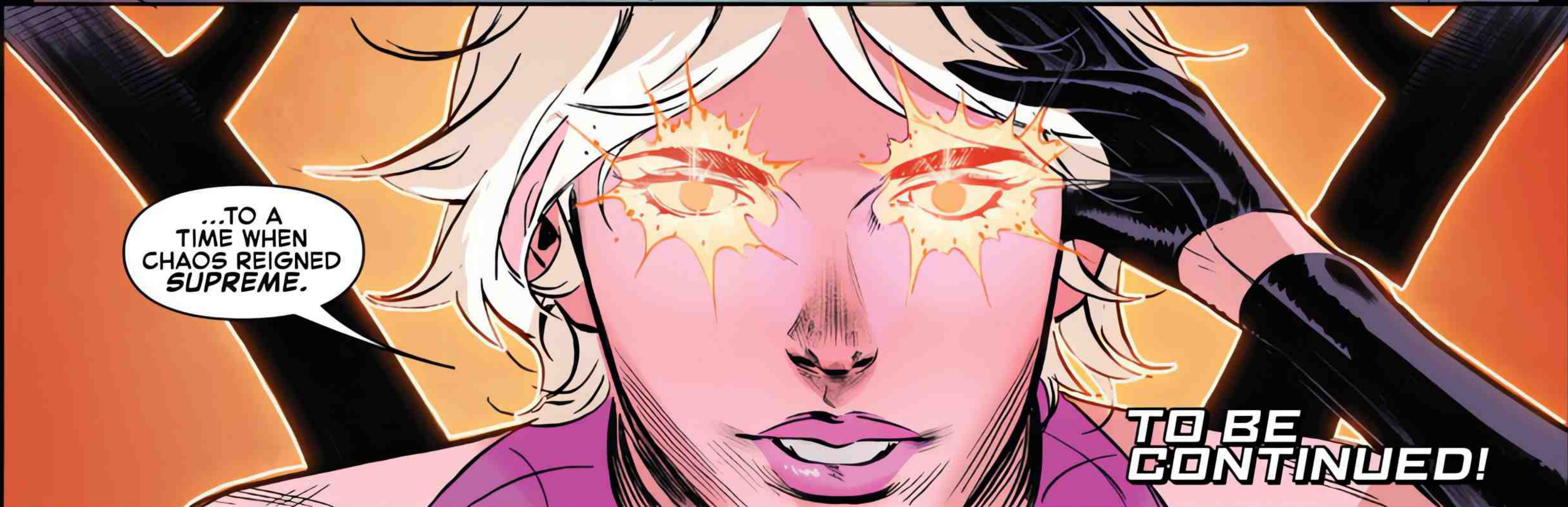
TO FIND THE ANSWER YOU SEEK...



...WE MUST LOOK TO THE **PAST**...



CLEA STRANGE.
SORCERER SUPREME OF THE DARK DIMENSION. ALSO DOG MOM AND WITCH.



...TO A TIME WHEN CHAOS REIGNED **SUPREME**.

TO BE CONTINUED!

CONTEST OF CHAOS

NEXT:

FANTASTIC FOUR

ANNUAL #1



HUMAN TORCH VS. GHOST RIDER!

The Fantastic Four is drawn into the mayhem when the Human Torch is pitted against Johnny Blaze, the Ghost Rider! It's flame versus hellfire when the two heroes face off—but who will emerge victorious?! Plus: More of Agatha Harkness' plan is revealed—along with those determined to stop her!

CHECKLIST:

PRELUDE TO CHAOS

- ☒ SCARLET WITCH ANNUAL #1

CONTEST OF CHAOS August

- ☒ SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #1
Spider-Man vs. Wolverine!

- ☒ IRON MAN ANNUAL #1
Iron Man vs. Storm!

- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #1
Human Torch vs. Ghost Rider!

- ☐ MOON KNIGHT ANNUAL #1
Moon Knight vs. Taegukgi!

CONTEST OF CHAOS September

- ☐ SPIDER-GWEN ANNUAL #1
Spider-Gwen vs. White Fox!

- ☐ VENOM ANNUAL #1
Venom vs. Deadpool!

- ☐ X-MEN ANNUAL #1
Cyclops vs. Captain Marvel!

- ☐ AVENGERS ANNUAL #1
Avengers vs. ???